

CLAIMS

1. A biodegradable polymer having the composition
- a) from 8 to 80% by weight of a starch modified to include an hydroxyalkyl C₂₋₆ group or modified by reaction with an anhydride of a di-carboxylic acid
- b) from 0 to 87.9% of starch
- c) from 4 to 11% by weight of a water soluble polymer selected from polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers of ethylene and vinyl alcohol which have a melting point compatible with the molten state of the starch components
- d) from 0 to 20% by weight of a polyol plasticiser
- e) from 0.1 to 1.5 % by weight of a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid or salt and
- f) from 0 to 12% by weight of added water.
2. A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein component e) is stearic acid.
3. A composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein component c) is a polyvinyl alcohol component.
4. A composition as claimed claim 1 wherein the polyol plasticiser is glycerol.
5. A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymer is thermoformable into rigid packaging products and the polyol plasticiser content is less than 11%.
6. A composition as claimed claim 5 wherein the polyol plasticiser content is zero and added water is from 10 to 12%.
7. A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymer contains 10 to 16% of plasticiser and is formed into a flexible film.
8. A composition as claimed claim 7 wherein the water content is zero.

- 5 packaging tray.
- add AZ
- add B'